



Master Plan

for the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

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2. Project Goals

As a key tourist destination and regional attraction, the SLO Botanical Garden will be concerned with the aesthetic, horticultural and scientific role of the living systems from the world's mediterranean regions in both natural and urban landscapes. Its exhibits, displays, education programs, public service activities and research efforts shall reflect this focus.

SLO Botanical Garden goals relate to plants and ecosystems of the five mediterranean climatic zones. The Garden will nurture a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world through the following goals:

Education

- Become one of the premier educational and scientific gardens in California.
- Provide opportunities to learn about plants, the natural environment, conservation, and horticultural practices.
- Provide community and school outreach programs.
- Develop a docent program.
- Become a regional natural history resource and referral center.
- Acquire, grow and display plants, both ornamental and those of scientific interest.
- Demonstrate sound horticultural practices and principles.

Conservation

- Develop the Garden's infrastructure and facilities to be a working model of sound conservation practices.
- Instill ecological literacy.
- Promote stewardship of the natural world.
- Serve as an information resource for habitat restoration, conservation and preservation of rare plant species.

Research

- Provide facilities and support for scientific

research.

- Provide a documented collection of plants available for study.
- Provide a repository for the introduction of plants from other mediterranean climate regions to the Central Coast.

Aesthetics

- Create an inviting and aesthetically pleasing garden setting.
- Highlight the seasonal qualities of mediterranean plants: spring and summer bloom, fall color and winter plant form.
- Present the collection in a natural, plant-community-based design scheme.

Recreation

- Provide a place for passive recreation: reflection, reading, painting and photography.
- Actively promote the facility as a venue for outdoor events: weddings, plays, festivals and concerts.

Design

- These goals shall be achieved through the application of the principles of universal design, incorporating inclusive operational criteria within its design to be fully accessible to the greatest range of human capability.
- The principles of sustainable design will be incorporated to provide the capability for both natural and cultural systems to maintain themselves over time; recognizing the impacts of design choices on the natural and cultural resources of local, regional and global environments.

